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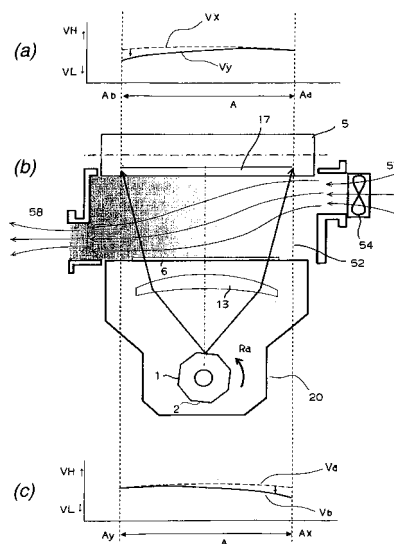
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(54) **Image forming apparatus**

(57) An image forming apparatus including: a photoconductor (5), adapted such that an electrostatic latent image is formed thereon and extending in a first direction; and an optical scanner (20), operable to emit a light beam to expose the photoconductor (5) while scanning in the first direction, wherein: the photoconductor (5) and the optical scanner (20) define a space therebetween; and the space allows air to flow therethrough in the first direction. In advantageous embodiments the optical scanner is arranged such that a light quantity distribution thereof increases in the first direction; the photoconductor is arranged such that a sensitivity distribution increases or decreases in the first direction; the space allows air to flow therethrough in a second direction opposite to the first direction; or a combination thereof.

FIG. 1





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 00 8303

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 14 October 2008	Examiner Billmann, Frank
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 00 8303

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 14 October 2008	Examiner Billmann, Frank
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-7

Scanning property selection (i.e., scan direction/ scan light quantity distribution) in an image forming apparatus being adapted such that air flows in a photoconductor extension direction in a space between a photoconductor and an optical scanner.

The technical problem to be solved by these features is to select one of a plurality of scanning properties for such an image forming apparatus having an air flow in a photoconductor extension direction in a space between a photoconductor and an optical scanner.

2. claims: 13-19

Scanning property selection (i.e., scan direction/ scan light quantity distribution) in an image forming apparatus being adapted such that air flows in a photoconductor extension direction in a space between a charging device and an optical scanner.

The technical problem to be solved by these features is to select one of a plurality of scanning properties for such an image forming apparatus having an air flow in a photoconductor extension direction in a space between a charging device and an optical scanner.

3. claims: 8-12,20-28

Image forming apparatus comprising a photoconductor having a photoconductor sensitivity distribution in the extension direction of the photoconductor and an optical scanner and means to improve image quality.

The technical problem to be solved by these features is to provide means for improving image quality in case of a photoconductor produced by a dip coating method.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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14-10-2008

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